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THE FORTUNE TELLER'S MAGIC

Keen Observation More Reliable Than Occult Science.

By HOWARD FIELDING.

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John E. Saintsbury died at his home in Davenport, Ia., two years ago. His will gave his widow a life interest in the estate, which at her death was to pass entire to their daughter Ethel, then seventeen years old. The prop- erty consisted of a comfortable house, a business that paid a fair income and an incipient lawsuit against a firm of brokers in New York through which Mr. Saintsbury had secretly gambled in stocks.

The New York firm was apparently evading the payment of a considerable



"I WILL ASK THEM MYSELF," SAID RED- MOND.

sum. Mr. Saintsbury had been con- sistently unlucky for a long time, but had come at last to that change of for- tune which is not impossible even in a game where the odds against the player are so monstrous as they are in Wall street. His sudden winnings, even on paper, did not equal his pro- tected losses, but they amounted to

many thousands of dollars, and when Mr. Saintsbury perceived that he was likely to be cheated of this money he suffered a nervous shock which had much to do with his death.

This whole matter was a close se- cret. Nobody in Davenport knew any- thing about it except Mr. Saintsbury and a lawyer. After Mr. Saintsbury's death the lawyer went to New York and attempted to collect the sum that was due. Failing to get immediate ac- tion, he left the matter in charge of a New York lawyer and returned to Davenport.

The New York lawyer played a slow and quiet game, not daring to proceed openly in the courts for fear of wreck- ing the brokers, in which event their creditors would have got about a cent on the dollar. But in the course of time the condition of the brokers' firm im- proved, and at last it seemed best that Mrs. Saintsbury should go to New York and that proceedings should be begun in earnest.

Accordingly Mrs. Saintsbury and Ethel set forth for the metropolis. None of their friends knew the real cause of their journey.

Ethel Saintsbury had now passed her nineteenth birthday. She was a girl of superior mental power, a brilliant and diligent student, with a somewhat mas- culine aptitude for science and mathe- matics.

When the mother and daughter reached New York they went at once to a small hotel where apartments had been engaged for them. The rooms were at the rear, and the windows looked out upon the backs of houses in the next street.

It was ordained that Ethel Saints- bury should have leisure to contem- plate the view that has been men- tioned, for in alighting from her car- riage at the door she turned her ankle in very painful fashion, so that she was unable to walk for ten days.

For this reason the business which had brought them to New York was transacted chiefly in the ladies' apart- ment. Thither came the lawyer who was in charge of the case, and thither came also a young gentleman named Dudley Wayne, who used to be known as "Deadly" Wayne when he played football for Harvard some years ago. He is now an assistant district attor- ney of New York, and he was called into the discussion because certain acts of the brokers' firm aforementioned seemed to have a criminal aspect.

Doubtless there was as handsome and as worthy fellows in Davenport, but Ethel Saintsbury had been blind to their merits. Dudley Wayne took her by surprise. She had not supposed there were any men like him. She was in love with him before she knew it.

Wayne meanwhile had progressed ever further. He knew that he was crazy. He could see Miss Saintsbury sitting in the chairs in his office; she waited for him at every turn of his

daily path, and alone in his rooms he talked with her two hours every night before he went to bed.

On a certain forenoon Mrs. Saints- bury went shopping, and in one of the stores she met an old acquaintance. This was a Mrs. Lowell of Davenport, a widow with abundant means and a child's vivid joy in living. She greet- ed Mrs. Saintsbury with enthusiasm.

"I've been in New York a week," said she. "I came up from Palm Beach to meet my son. He returned from abroad this morning."

Mrs. Saintsbury knew that young Mr. Lowell had been in Italy studying music, for which art he was supposed to have unusual gifts.

"I have invited some people for this evening—mostly musical people, of course," continued Mrs. Lowell. "You and Ethel must come."

As a result of this chance encounter Mrs. Saintsbury and her daughter went out for the first time in the evening since their arrival in New York.

About 9:30 of the evening Ethel Saintsbury and Arthur Lowell sat in a corner of the ornate drawing room.

Lowell, who was a creature of en- thusiasm and superlatives, was telling about a wonderful man whom he had met abroad and had had as a compan- ion of the voyage across. This gentle- man's name was Redmond, and he possessed miraculous powers of divina- tion.

"I hope he'll come," said Lowell for the tenth time.

"Did he tell your fortune?" asked Miss Saintsbury, whose disbelief in psychic marvels was based upon the firm rock of scientific education.

"Rather!" exclaimed Lowell. "He read me through and through." And he proceeded to give details of the usual sort—such things as may be read at a glance by any shrewd and practical man. In the midst of this recital Redmond arrived.

"Look at him," whispered Lowell. "Wouldn't you know that he was a wonder? See how queerly his black hair is spotted with gray. Somebody on the ship said that an angel had laid her hand on Redmond's head and left the print of her fingers. Doesn't it look so?"

"Yes," said Miss Saintsbury. "But it didn't happen."

"Oh, you're a skeptic. You don't be- lieve in anything."

"I believe in nothing except the scientific method, and only very mod- erately in that."

"You'll believe in my friend Red- mond if you ever give him a chance to convince you."

In view of this situation nobody will be surprised to learn that Redmond got his chance.

It is only just to say that Redmond bore no likeness to the conventional dabbler in wonders. His manner was easy and natural, recognizably British, yet softened by contact with continen- tal society. He did not thrust his special gift upon the attention of others, but he showed no embarrass- ment about it. When Lowell urged an immediate annihilation of Miss Saintsbury's skepticism Redmond smiled at his friend's impetuosity and agreed to do his best.

They were seated in a large bay window and partly shielded from the observation of the other guests. Red- mond took the girl's right hand by the tips of the fingers and looked steadily into her eyes.

"Perhaps," said he, "as we have only a few minutes you would like to ask me some direct test questions."

It was the idea that had been in her mind, but she perversely denied hav- ing any such desire.

"I will ask them myself," said Red- mond, with a smile. "First, why have

you come to New York? Second, what have you done since you came? Third, what is it that you think me least likely to know?"

"My word!" said Lowell under his breath. "That last question is a poser."

"With your permission?" said Red- mond, and the girl inclined her head. "I must be very brief, for I see that we shall be interrupted almost imme- diately. You have come to New York upon a legal matter which in some of its aspects touches not only the civil but the criminal statutes. Since you came here you have been very quiet, because you sprained your right ankle on the day of your arrival. The matter which you think me least likely to know— Shall I proceed?"

"Yes," said she, but not without ex- citement.

"It is your interest in a tall young man of the blond type." He glanced over his shoulder and saw that he had but a few moments more in which to speak. "I foresee much happiness for you in the direction I have indicated," he continued. "But I feel bound to warn you that the young man stands in some peril. Let him guard himself carefully against a man about forty years old, of medium height and short heavily built. This man has short curly, iron gray hair. He has a scar passing diagonally downward across his right eyebrow and appearing upon the cheek."

"Mr. Redmond"—it was Mrs. Lowell who spoke—"you will sing for us now?"

"With pleasure," he replied and de- parted with his hostess.

"What do you think of my friend Redmond now?" said Lowell. "Isn't he marvellous?"

"I have not made up my mind about Mr. Redmond," said she, "but my pos- sition in regard to all fortune telling, mind reading and kindred marvels is wholly unchanged. I do not in the least believe in them."

"But did he tell you the truth?"

"In confidence, my friend, he did. Is there a telephone in this suit that I could use privately at once?"

"You mean to warn—"

"Precisely."

Five minutes later she was in com- munication with the bachelor apart- ment house where Dudley Wayne lived. The young man had been out all the evening, but while Miss Saints- bury was leaving a message that he should call her up he came in. To him by telephone she told exactly what had happened. Wayne was amazed.

"I know the fellow that Mr. Red- mond described," said he. "I sent him to jail about two years ago."

"Has he got out?"

"I don't know. As I remember, it would be about this time. And it's a fact that he made some threats, but don't worry. He can't hurt me."

"Be careful. Oh Dudley, be careful! Mr. Redmond must have information. This fortune telling is nonsense, of course."

"Well, I don't know," responded Dudley. "It's the best of its kind that ever I heard of. How could he have known our secret, our blessed secret that is not twelve hours old? Have you told your mother?"

"No, not yet. Come to me tomorrow as early as you can, and please, please be careful!"

EXPOSITION FIGHT INTERESTS COUNTRY

San Francisco Outclasses New Orleans In Every Respect.

The great fight that is being waged between San Francisco and New Or- leans for the honor of celebrating the completion of the Panama canal is attracting the attention of the entire country. The fight is no longer a contest between the two cities, but be- tween California and Louisiana, the legislatures of which have each ad- vanced a state tax to raise funds in aid of the proposed international exposition.

In financial standing California is so far ahead of Louisiana that its superior ability to finance the fair must be conceded, and if the question of selecting a site for the exposition were to be decided on a basis of the relative wealth of the contestants, congress would have no option, but would be forced to award the coveted honor to San Francisco.

To the unprejudiced observer it is difficult to see wherein New Orleans has any legitimate claim to recog- nition as the logical point for the ex- position, aside from the mere fact that it is located nearer to the center of population. In beauty of surround- ings, climatic advantages, ability to handle the hundreds of thousands of prospective visitors, general progres- sive spirit of its people and record of achievement, San Francisco stands head and shoulders above its rival.

According to the report of the na- tional monetary commission on April 28, 1909, the population of California

was 1,732,000, and that of Louisiana 1,642,000, while in the amount of sav- ings deposits California ranked fourth among the states of the Union and Louisiana twenty-fourth, the ex- act figures being as follows:

California \$281,229,497 36
Louisiana \$1,335,282 99
California had \$35,488 depositories, aver- aging \$232,437.47; average, \$740.90.
Louisiana had 133,514 depositories, aver- aging \$244.60.

The total resources as represented in bank deposits were: California, \$48,969,899; average per capita, \$156.70.
Louisiana, \$103,612,502.90; average per capita, \$98.61.

The following figures are taken from the report of the reports of the California comptroller of currency:

San Francisco—Total savings deposits, \$123,392,166.05; total individual deposits, \$123,327,437.47; average, \$740.90.
New Orleans—Total savings deposits, \$16,866,783.49; total individual deposits, \$16,979,077.18; average, \$250.00.

Increases in resources of National banks year 1909-1910: San Francisco, \$103,612,502.90; New Orleans, \$2,370,226.74.

In the face of such a showing New Orleans and Louisiana do not appear to be in the same class with San Francisco and California, financially. And California is as much superior to Louisiana in every other respect as she is financially, just as San Francisco is immeasurably superior to New Orleans in all that goes to make a great and beautiful city.

San Francisco is the ideal site for the Panama-Pacific International ex- position in 1915. Let congress make no mistake.

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NECK
AS LONG AS THIS FELLOW,
YOU'D HAVE A
SORE THROAT
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DOWN
TONSILINE
WOULD QUICKLY CURE IT.
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ALL DRUGGISTS.

ELM GROVE

F. P. Andrews and family and W. T. Andrews and family spent Sunday at the home of their mother, Mrs. C. W. Andrews, at Burntwood.

Mrs. Pearl Steele and her brother Wesley spent Sunday with their par- ents, J. W. Steele and wife.

The ball team from this place played the Montezuma team Sunday. Score 8 to 12 in favor of Elm Grove.

Mrs. Lida Lewis, of Celina, spent Sunday at the home of Mrs. John Steele.

Albert Palmer and wife were Sun- day guests of Mrs. Bennett and family at Montezuma.

Mrs. Steele called at the home of Ralph Monroe Tuesday.

With sorrow and deepest sympathy for the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Val Hole, we write the death of their little daughter, Elizabeth Dorothy, who was born June 8, 1905, and died of diphtheria October 9, 1910, aged 5 years, 4 months and one day. Interment at Swamp College Cemetery.

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BURDEN TOO HEAVY FOR NEW ORLEANS

City Already Struggling Under an Indebtedness of \$40,916,918.13.

New Orleans is far from being a unit in favor of the proposed state tax to raise a fund of \$6,500,000 in aid of the World's Panama expo- sition.

The New Orleans Taxpayers' Pro- tective association has adopted a strong resolution, which is being widely distributed in the form of a circular letter, advising its members to oppose the levy, principally on the ground that the city is already taxed and bonded to the limit of endurance and that the taxpayers are not able to bear the additional burden.

The letter quotes the comptroller's report of Dec. 31, 1909, to prove that the present bonded debt of the city is \$22,521,040, on which the annual interest amounts to \$975,740. In addition to this the water and sewerage board is attempting to sell \$7,000,000 of bonds, bearing interest at 4 per cent and the unpaid ordinances and unfinished contracts for paving amount to \$343,168.33 and \$552,709.50.

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J. B. PULSKAMP, Cashier.
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respectively, bringing the total in- debtedness of the city up to the amou- nous sum of \$40,916,918.13.

To the above must be added more than \$5,000,000, which must be paid by the city on state bonds now due; the courthouse commission carries a debt of \$750,000, the dock board \$3,000,000, and the levee board \$3,000,000.

Continuing, the letter says: "Re- member, also, that if the city of New Orleans succeeds in selling her \$7,000,000 of bonds, the water and sewerage board will compel every property holder, to the number of 66,000, to put in the sewerage and waterworks in their premises at a cost of not less than \$250 per real- estate, thus making the enormous sum of \$16,000,000."

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